

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02124 081742Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00  
DLOS-06 OES-06 OC-06 CCO-00 ST-01 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05  
SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-13 OMB-01 /136 W  
-----081938Z 074747 /43

R 081655Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9412

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

US DESPATCH AGENT BALTIMORE

US DESPATCH AGENT MIAMI

US DESPATCH AGENT NEW YORK

US DESPATCH AGENT SAN FRANCISCO

UNCLAS ATHENS 2124

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EGEN, GR

SUBJECT: LABOR DISPUTE CONGESTS PORT OF PIRAEUS

REF: ATHENS 1053 (NOTAL)

1. LONGSHOREMEN AT THE PORT OF PIRAEUS HAVE BEEN REFUSING  
TO WORK OVERTIME SINCE FEBRUARY 6 AND HELD A 48-HOUR STRIKE  
MARCH 4-5 WHICH HAVE CAUSED THE HARBOR TO BECOME SERIOUSLY  
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CONGESTED, WITH RESULTING DELAYS IN THE TRANSFER OF CARGO.  
A 15 PERCENT SURCHARGE ON ZURICH CONFERENCE CARGO MOVING  
THROUGH PIRAEUS TO REIMBURSE CARRIERS FOR SHIPS DELAYED IN  
PORT APPEARS IMMINENT AND THE AMATILE CONFERENCE HAS  
THREATENED A 30 PERCENT SURCHARGE.

2. ONE SHIP CARRYING CARGO CONSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY WAS

DELAYED TWO EXTRA DAYS IN PORT. ANOTHER SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE MARCH 5 WAS DIVERTED TO TURKEY AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL MARCH 10. ON MARCH 8, FORTY-NINE SHIPS WERE IN PIRAEUS HARBOR WITH ANOTHER FORTY-FIVE ANCHORED OUTSIDE

3. THE LONGSHOREMEN'S REFUSAL TO WORK OVERTIME AND THE TWO-DAY STRIKE ARE TO BACK UP THEIR DEMANDS FOR WAGE AND FRINGE BENEFIT INCREASES. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LONGSHOREMEN'S FEDERATION TOLD THE EMBASSY MARCH 8 THAT IN ITS CURRENT NEGOTIATING PACKAGE THE UNION IS SEEKING VARIOUS INCREASES AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY THIRTY PERCENT. THE PIRAEUS PORT AUTHORITY'S INITIAL OFFER WAS A TWO-STEP FIFTEEN PERCENT WAGE INCREASE, BUT NO INCREASES IN FRINGE BENEFITS, IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT WAGE POLICY SET BY THE NATIONAL GENERAL COLLECTIVE LABOR AGREEMENT SIGNED JANUARY 26 (REFTEL). NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING AND DELAYS IN THE TRANSFER OF CARGO CAN BE EXPECTED UNTIL THE DISPUTE IS SETTLED

4. IF THE PORT CONGESTION CONTINUES, THERE WILL BE SOME DETRIMENTAL IMPLICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND FOR THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. FREIGHT SURCHARGES WILL BE INFLATIONARY, INCREASING PRICES OF BOTH EXPORTS AND IMPORTS. MOREOVER THE FLOW OF TRADE WILL BE AFFECTED, POSSIBLY CAUSING SHORTAGES, INTERRUPTING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION SCHEDULES, OR RESULTING IN FAILURE TO FULFILL EXPORT CONTRACTS.  
MILLS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PORT CONGESTION, LONGSHOREMEN, LABOR DISPUTES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** LABOR DISPUTE CONGESTS PORT OF PIRAEUS  
**TAGS:** ELAB, EGEN, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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